

THEA FOR SKETCHUP

USER MANUAL



Revision 202.01

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Thea for SketchUp is an integrated version of Thea Render. This allows a creation of stunning images right inside SketchUp and an interactive work with cameras, materials and lights. There is an option of saving a complete Thea scene with all associated files for utilizing advanced tools present in Thea Studio. Thea For SketchUp supports SketchUp Versions 6, 7, 8, 2013 and 2014 both Free and Pro, on both systems: Windows & OS X.

For downloads and plugin features please visit www.thearender.com/sketchup

1.2 INSTALLATION

MS WINDOWS

Please use the provided installer. It is advised to install Thea Render first. Please make sure you have administrator rights while installing the plugin.

A default SketchUp installation folder is:

C:\Program Files (x86)\Google\Google Sketchup >version number<\Plugins

The folder will be automatically found in case of SketchUp versions 6, 7, 8, 2013 and 2014.

MAC - OSX

Please use provided installer. The installer will guide you through the needed installation steps. It also gives you the possibility to select the SketchUp version(s) for the plugin to be installed. It is advised to install Thea Render first.

Materials installation is automatic too. For adding additional libraries though, a default folder for putting these materials is:

SU8>> Macintosh HD/Library/Application Support/Google Sketchup 8/Sketchup/Materials

SU2013>> Macintosh HD/Application/SketchUp2013/Sketchup/(right click) -> show content /Contents/Resources/Content/Materials

Note: if you are using Lion, Snow Lion or higher version of OSX the ~Library folder is hidden.

Please follow this link to learn how to access the folder:

<http://mac.tutsplus.com/tutorials/productivity/how-to-reveal-your-library-folder-in-lion-or-mountain-lion/>

1.3 ACTIVATION

For activating the plugin you need to open the License Input Form window from within Thea Studio or from Thea for SketchUp plugin and add your Thea Studio serial along with SketchUp plugin serial (see Figure 1).

Tip: you can open the License Input Form window from inside SketchUp by pressing at Thea Tools window, at Tools tab, the License button (see more details on page 24).

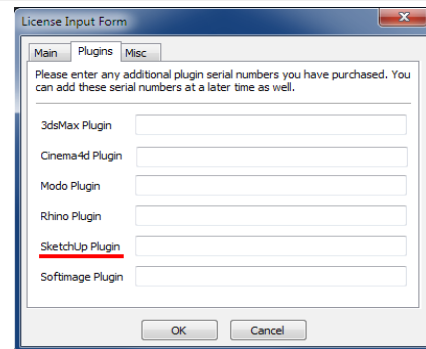


Figure 1: License Input Form
Plugins Tab

DEMO VERSION LIMITATIONS

Please note that while plugin is not licensed, rendered image resolution will be limited and watermarks will be added. All other features and functionality are fully supported.

1.4 GENERAL LAYOUT OF THE PLUGIN WINDOWS

Once the plugin is installed correctly a new item in the Plugins menu will appear (see Figure 2). You can also have access to Thea for SketchUp through tools palette. Select "Show Thea toolbar" from the plugin menu. A toolbar as seen in Figure 3 will appear on the screen.

Tip: in case the plugin is not enabled you can go at Preferences of SketchUp > Extensions and enable it at the list.

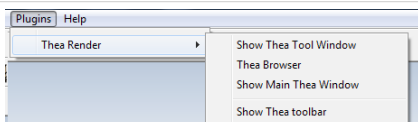


Figure 2: Plugins Menu



Figure 3: Thea Render Toolbar

User interface of the plugin is divided into two windows:



Thea Tool Window

It allows setting up cameras, editing materials, placing and editing lights, exporting a scene to Thea Studio and defining other preferences.



Thea Browser

This button opens Thea Browser Window that helps inserting easily inside SketchUp View Thea models, materials, skies and SketchUp components



Thea Main Window

The main window displays currently rendered image, allows engines and rendering mode selections, provides controls over the displayed rendering, its channels and environment settings.

1.5 MAIN WINDOW

1.5.1 CONTROL BUTTONS

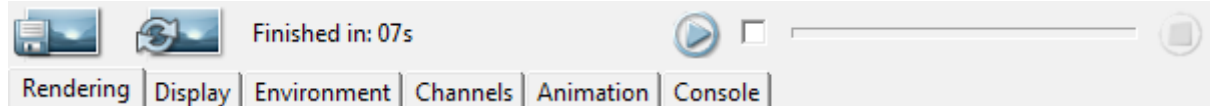


Figure 4: Control Buttons of Main Window

At the main window as we see it in Figure 4 we meet (from left to right) the following buttons/indicators:

Save button: it allows to save the current render as an image and also the currently rendered model as *.pack.thea or *.scn.thea file that can be opened then in Thea Studio.

Refresh button: it forces a refresh of a current view of the rendering. It is usually being used when one wants to see immediately the progress of the rendering being done. The plugin refreshes the view automatically at some intervals.

Render Phase info: at this area we see some details concerning our rendering progress or the time needed to be finished.

Start/Pause button: start button makes Thea collect all necessary data from SketchUp and start the rendering process. When there is a selection present, when one presses the start button while keeping ALT key pressed - only the selection will be rendered. Pause button (appears instead of the Start button when rendering is in progress) pauses the rendering.

Render Selection Check Box: by enabling this box before rendering, only the selected SketchUp component will be rendered.

Stop button: it stops the rendering and makes Thea refresh the main window, so it displays the final image.

1.5.2 MAIN WINDOW TABS

1.5.2.1 RENDERING TAB



Figure 5: Rendering Tab - Interactive Mode

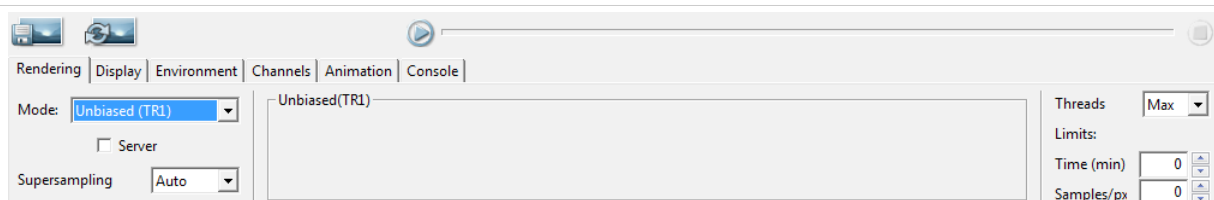


Figure 6: Rendering Tab – Unbiased Mode

Rendering Modes

The control provides a selection among Thea Render engines. There are several options that allow also an interactive type of rendering (IR indication).

For Interactive rendering engines, as seen in Figure 5, user can specify several settings for the selected engine, as it is analytically described later.

Window Selection for Rendering – Overlay option

At the right side of the Rendering Engines list, when Interactive Render is enabled, a list with 3 bullets (see Figure 7) lets the user define if the interactive rendering will be shown inside Thea window (see Figure 8) or inside SketchUp window as Overlay option (see Figure 9) or inside SketchUp window as Overlay with Blending (see Figure 10).



Figure 7: Render inside Thea window or inside SketchUp as Overlay or as Overlay with Blending

Overlay option shows the rendered image on top of the SketchUp scene and user can navigate, modify geometry, add models etc. and see the rendered image changing accordingly inside SketchUp view. Blending mode gives a blending result of the rendered image and SketchUp scene style. Initially a default style is used that gives better blending results but user is able to change to the desired style while rendering. The rendering can be saved as an image, both in standard and blending modes.

Tip: while using the Overlay, especially with blending, the best results can be achieved by using Presto engines with GPU enabled for rendering and leaving CPU (at least a thread or two) available for SketchUp.

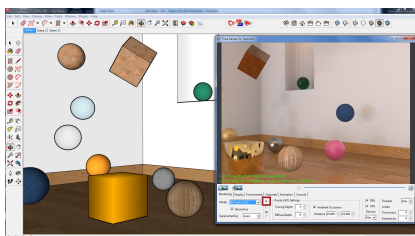


Figure 8: Rendering inside Thea Window

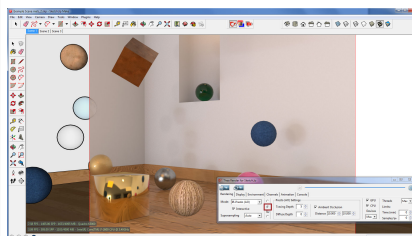


Figure 9: Render in SketchUp Window as Overlay

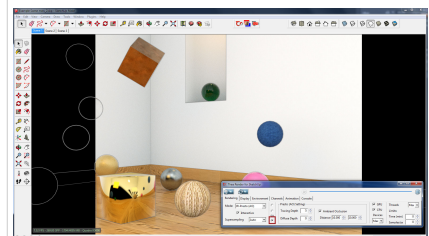


Figure 10: Render in SketchUp Window as Overlay with Blending

Interactive Region Rendering

Another available feature with the use of interactive rendering inside SketchUp window (as Overlay or Overlay with Blending) is the Interactive Region Rendering, which provides a fast feedback from your model and materials setup. You can mark the desired part of SketchUp view (as Interactive Rendering is on) by pressing Shift button and the same time with Thea cursor draw the desired window. You can add multiple regions too as seen in Figure 11. You can also save the selected region by pressing the save button.

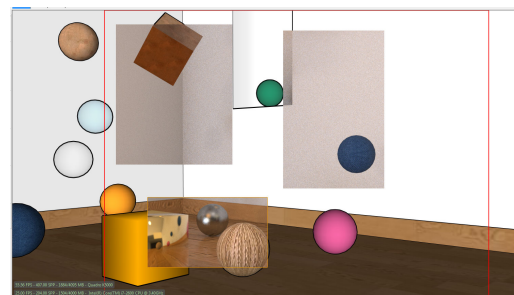


Figure 11: Interactive Region Rendering

Server

Server option is available for the Non-Interactive modes (Adaptive (BSD), Unbiased TR1 and TR2) and helps user perform a network rendering, with the use of client machines.

Super-sampling

This corresponds to the super-sampling used for the image output, i.e. internal resolution multiplier for anti-aliasing enhancement. None corresponds to no super-sampling, Normal to 2x2 and High to 3x3. Auto corresponds to no super-sampling for biased engine and 2x2 for unbiased engines. Setting super-sampling to a higher level will generally improve anti-aliasing of the output but will increase memory demands for storing the image (4 times in Normal level and 9 times in High level). The time needed to render the scene will also be increased for biased engine. But for the unbiased engines, the extra time needed to render the higher resolution image is usually amortized by the reduced noise visible in the visualized (down-sampled) image. It is usually suggested, for unbiased rendering, to change super-sampling to None for high resolution output and High when there is persisting noise.

Additional Settings**Threads**

This is the entry for the render worker threads that will be used during rendering (not all application process threads). The special value 0, same like Max, corresponds to the number of logical cores on your machine. Exceeding this value (shown explicitly as the last value in the drop-down list) will have no benefit and actually an impact on performance.

Limits

- Time(min)
This is a parameter used to terminate the unbiased render process (it is only used by unbiased render engines). It is given in minutes, and 0 is a special value corresponding to no time limit at all.
- Samples/px
This allows to terminate an unbiased rendering when each pixel in a rendered image will be sampled given number of times. In simple cases when no much caustics is present in a model a value of 300 is sufficient. In more complex scenes higher values may be needed.

Interactive Modes

Those modes allow not only render the model as a static image, but also let interactively move a camera around a model or adjust Sun position and see the rendering view being updated.

IR-Progressive (AO), IR-Progressive (MC), IR-Adaptive(AMC), IR-Presto (AO) and IR-Presto (MC) are names of available methods.

For fast rendering Presto engines can be selected as they use both your GPU+CPU (see Figure 12). You can define extra parameters for devices used by Presto engines at Devices window. Adaptive (AMC) method works very well with multiple lights and complex lighting conditions.

Most important parameter for those engines is the 'Tracing Depth' which defines how many times light bounced in a model. Values starting from 4 give good results in simple conditions, while higher number is needed when there are many highly reflective surfaces in a model.

For detailed description of parameters of rendering methods, please refer to Thea Render manual.

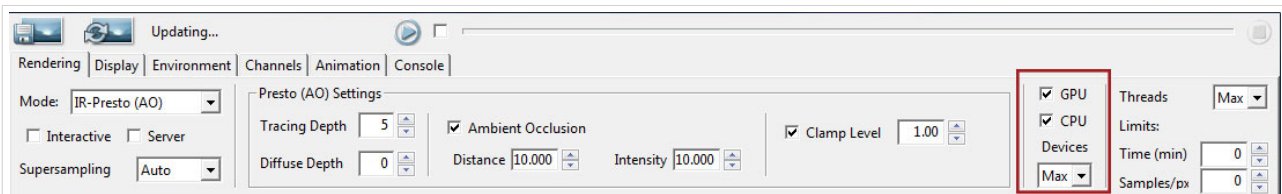


Figure 12: GPU+CPU mode selection

Non-Interactive Modes

There are three non-Interactive high quality modes available:

- **Adaptive (BSD):** in many cases the fastest method based on presets, but it requires some experience when a certain set-up is advantageous.

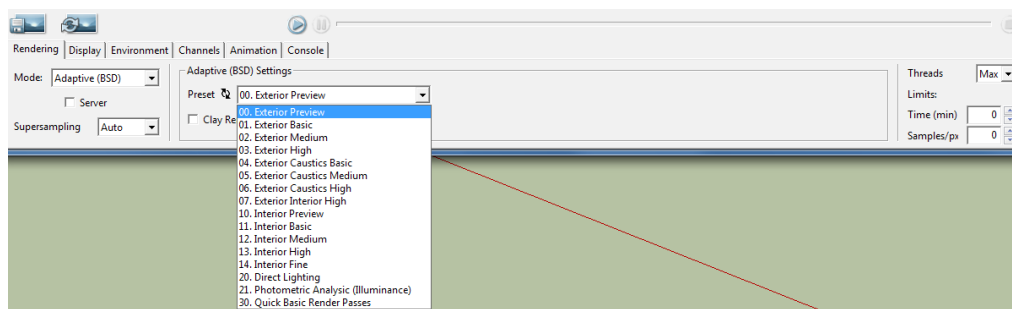


Figure 13: Adaptive (BSD) Presets

Two Unbiased methods: they don't require any settings and deliver renderings of the highest quality. These are:

- **Unbiased (TR1) engine:** it is preferred in exterior renders and interiors where direct lighting is the most dominant in the scene.
- **Unbiased (TR2) mode:** it is preferred when difficult indirect lighting is dominant in the render or heavy caustics are present (such as a pool sun caustics).

1.5.2.2 DISPLAY TAB

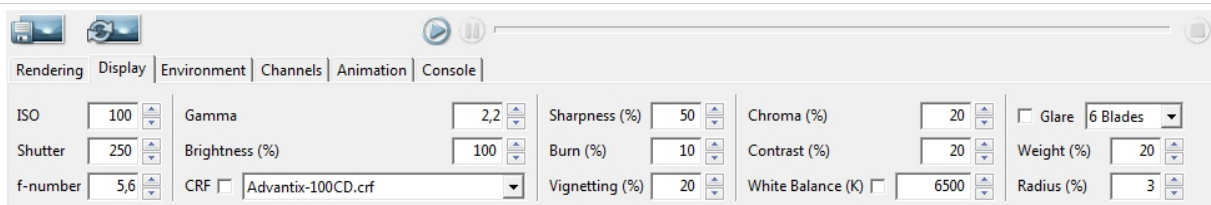


Figure 14: Display Tab

Display Tab is a space where you can manipulate your rendered image and apply any post-processing. First two sections are related to a render exposure and the following three to a filtering. For a detailed description of all options, please refer to Thea Render Darkroom tutorial – Section 2A.

1.5.2.3 ENVIRONMENT TAB

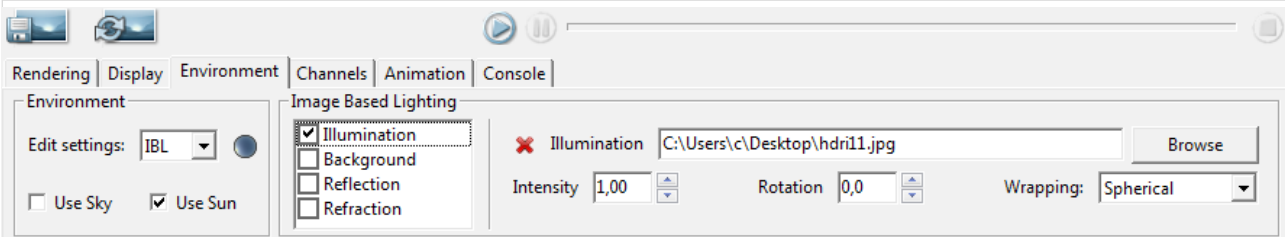


Figure 15: Environment Tab -IBL

Environment

Use Sky

It tells Thea to create a background for a rendered scene in a form of Physical Sky. It will look as a clear sky which will be automatically adjusted to a position of the Sun. Turning this on makes plugin disable the background image, if it is being used.

Use Sun

It tells Thea to create the Sun that will give same shadows as those present in a SketchUp model.

Edit Settings

At the Edit Settings drop down list we can see the options for IBL, Sun and Sky to appear, which open the corresponding panels for editing.

IBL: Image Based Lighting

As seen in Figure 15 by selecting the IBL edit settings, the panel with the corresponding panel appears where user can specify the Illumination, Background, Reflection and Refraction maps. Image-based lighting is a convenient way to add illumination to your scene, coming from captured photos of the surrounding environment. Since a photo of a real scene can be used, the lighting is highly convincing and enhances the realism of your renders. In most cases, the images used for this kind of lighting need to be of high dynamic range in order to provide enough lighting for a scene.

One can use an image for illuminating the scene, nevertheless, he can also set up different images for background, reflections and refractions. This makes possible to use different source for lighting and for reflections/background, which in most cases need more details in the image. This is actually a usual render optimization, where the illumination source is relatively low-detailed texture in order for the image to quickly “converge”, while background and reflections use a detailed map for visually enhanced results.

To add one of image types select proper type and press 'Browse' button to select a desired image. When proper bitmap selected its path will be displayed in the adjacent horizontal input box. One can control intensity, rotation and a way the image is wrapped around a model.

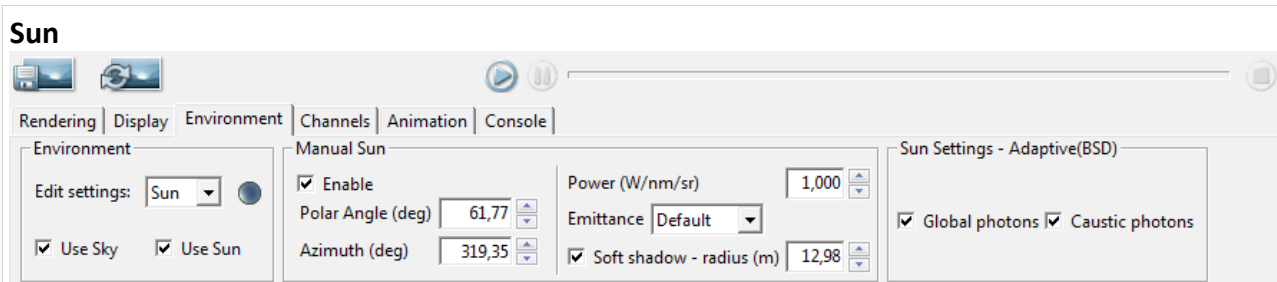


Figure 16: Sun Settings

Manual Sun option helps to position the sun in an arbitrary position regardless of model's geographic location. You are able to adjust the sun Polar Angle and Azimuth, either by entering the desired values, or manually, by opening the Environment Preview (Figure 17) and clicking preferred location in the preview.

Environment Preview can be opened by clicking a blue icon in Environment Settings. This window shows a preview of environment which is being automatically updated. When Manual Sun is disabled and IBL lighting used, then the environment map can be rotated by dragging the preview image.

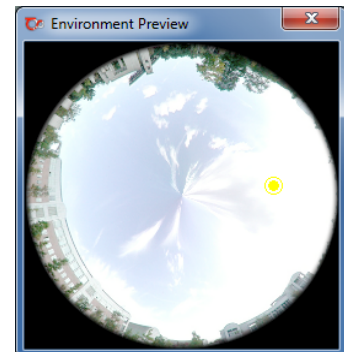


Figure 17: Environment Preview

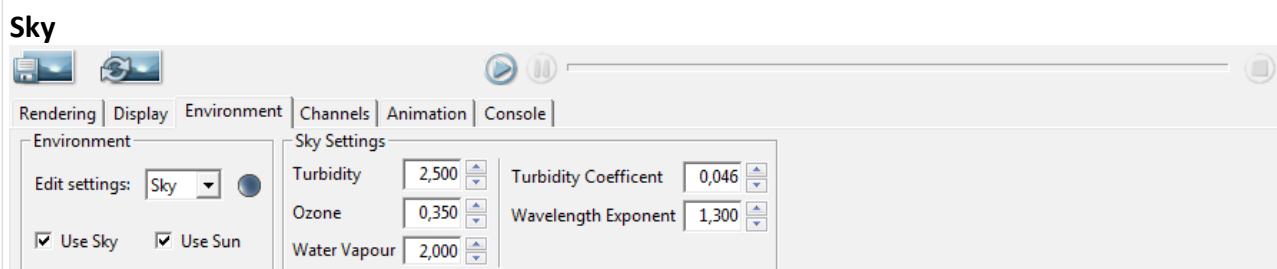


Figure 18: Sky Settings

By selecting the Sky at the Edit Settings list, the sky settings appear as seen in Figure 18.

1.5.2.4 CHANNELS TAB

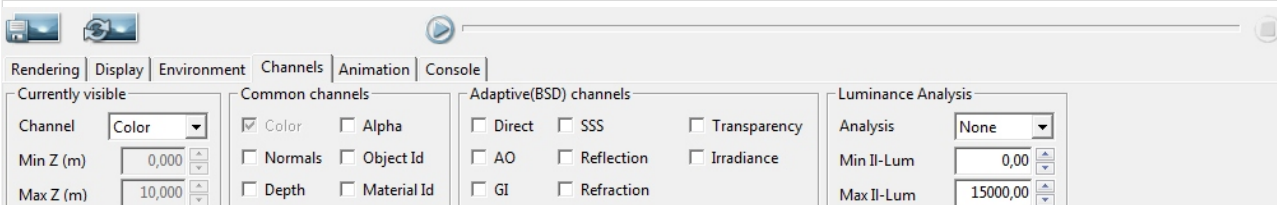


Figure 19: Channels Tab

This tab is being used when an additional image is being required, other than a standard rendering. This is mostly used when a post-processing is intended using external image

manipulation program.

Available channels are: Color (standard rendering) , Normal, Depth, Alpha, Object Id, Material Id and channels specific to Adaptive(BSD) rendering mode: Direct, Ambient Occlusion, Global Illumination, Sub-Surface Scattering, Reflection, Refraction, Transparency and Irradiance.

Luminance Analysis describe the luminance and illuminance distribution. Thea Render can compute both of them. Luminance is computed out of the box for any image that you have already rendered and for any render settings. Illuminance can be computed by the Adaptive BSD engine.

To view the analysis of a rendered image select 'Photometric' from the drop down menu. 'Min Il – Lum' and 'Max Il – Lum' parameters control a range of illumination the analysis is performed on.

1.5.2.5 ANIMATION TAB

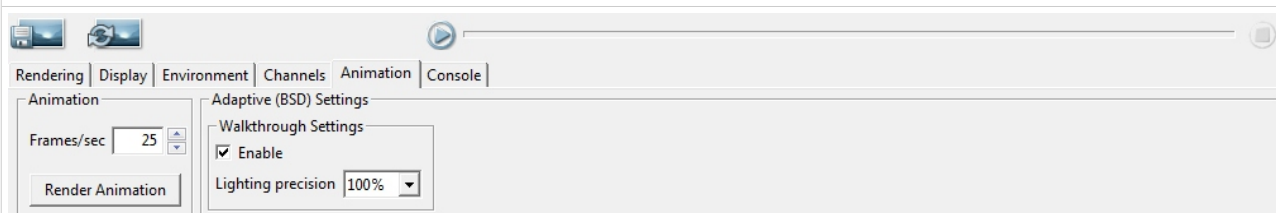


Figure 20: Animation Tab

This tab contains animation related settings. Currently Thea for SketchUp supports simple camera animation – walk-through style. Camera movement will follow exactly same path as it moves in SketchUp. Field of view changes during animation won't be applied.

'Frames per second' parameter controls how fluid an exported animation will be. Animation rendering can be only started by pressing 'Render Animation' button.

1.5.2.6 CONSOLE TAB

Thea For SketchUp uses the console to send you messages informing you about current state of rendering, time in which rendering was finished and warnings. In general visiting the console is recommended if something doesn't work as expected. It can help you finding a source of problem - no light in a model or missing texture.

1.6 THEA BROWSER WINDOW

1.6.1 GENERAL

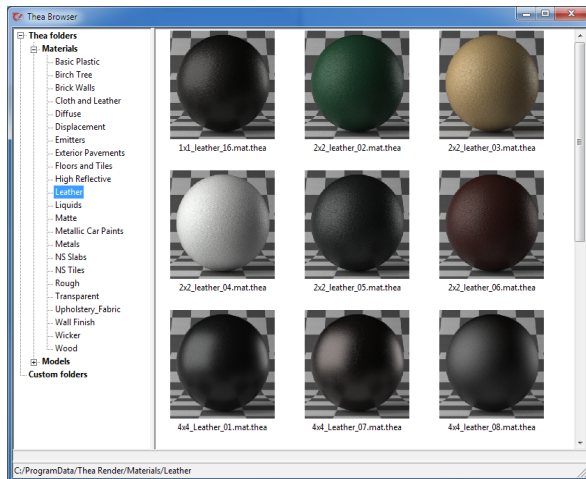


Figure 21: Thea Browser

Within Thea Browser window you can find the available Thea Models and Materials libraries and Skies.

By seeing their previews you can select the one you want, double click on it and then by going inside SketchUp scene you can either paint a surface with this material or add the model to the desired point. Sky is added directly (and enabled) at the IBL of the Environment tab. Thea Browser displays also SketchUp components and lets you insert them.

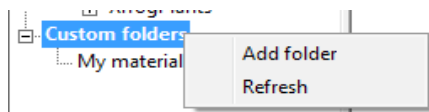


Figure 22: Right Click Options

Tip: by right clicking on the Custom Folder option you can either refresh your contents or choose your own folder with materials or models. You can also remove a selected folder by right clicking on it.

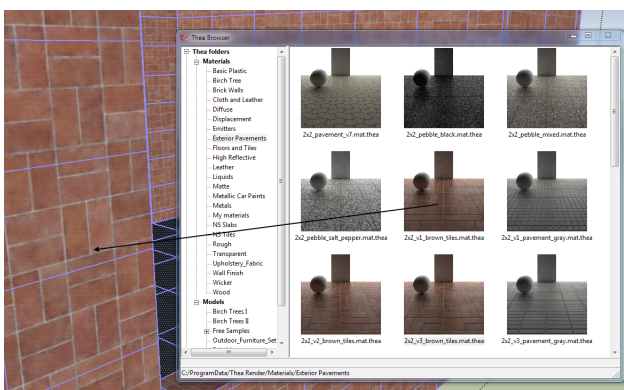


Figure 23: Preview and using a material

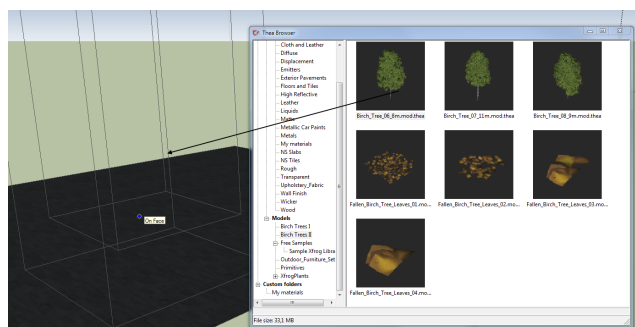


Figure 24: Preview and inserting a model

1.6.1 ADDITIONAL INFO FOR CREATING AND INSERTING MODELS (EXTERNAL PROXIES)

Thea For SketchUp allows an insertion of complex, external Thea models in a form of a bounding box, which will be replaced by the original, detailed model inside Thea rendering window when a rendering starts. To insert a model select it firstly from the Thea Content Browser, either among the existing libraries or from your own collection or from those created as described below. Simply double click on it to select it and then insert the model into SketchUp.

CREATING A PROXY

You can easily create a Thea model (mod.thea) and use it afterwards as a proxy from within SketchUp, by following the next steps:

- Select the component you want to use as a proxy and name it appropriately (see Figure 25).
- Select a small camera resolution (for example 150x150) and find a nice view of your model to make a preview rendering (see Figure 26).
- At Thea Render main window enable (before rendering) the Render Selection option (see Figure 27).
- Render your model preview (see Figure 28). You can now press the Save button and save the rendered model in a mod.thea format (Thea Model). Otherwise you can save it by the use of Content Browser (see next steps).
- Open then the Thea Browser window. Select at the left side list a desired folder. Then with right click at the right side of the window, press the appearing "Save *.mod.thea here" option (see Figure 29).
- The proxy is now created and can be found from now on inside the selected folder. With double click you can insert the model (bounding box) inside SketchUp scene (see Figure 30).

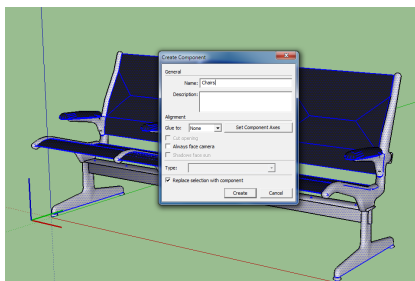


Figure 25: Creating and Saving the component

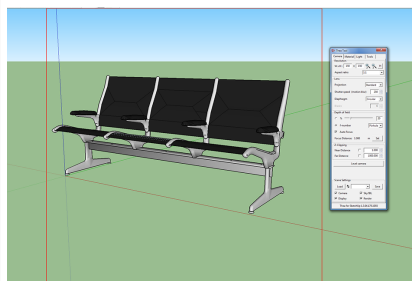


Figure 26: Setup Camera View

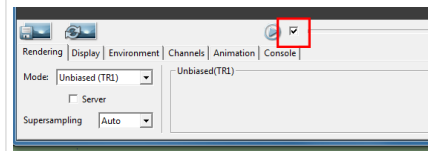


Figure 27: Render Selection Only

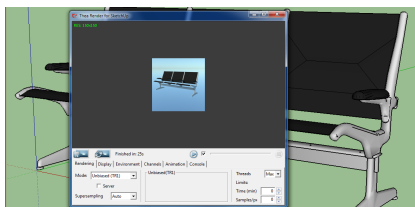


Figure 28: Make the preview render

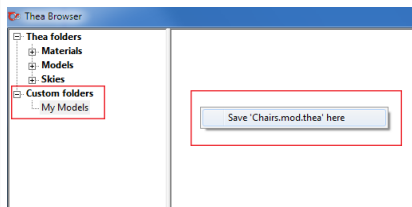


Figure 29: Save model to selected folder of Content Browser

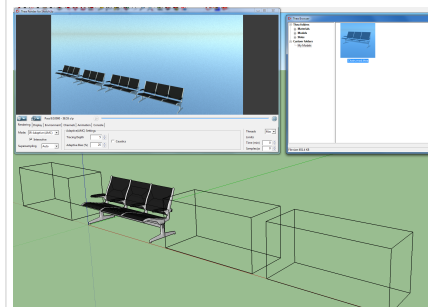


Figure 30: Use the model as a Proxy

CREATING PROXY PREVIEW

A corresponding SketchUp model (in *.mod.skp format) can be written in the same folder as the Thea Model (*.mod.thea) and in this way this SketchUp file will be used instead of the boundingbox when inserting the external models as a proxy. When mod.skp is present then its preview will be displayed on top of mod.thea preview.

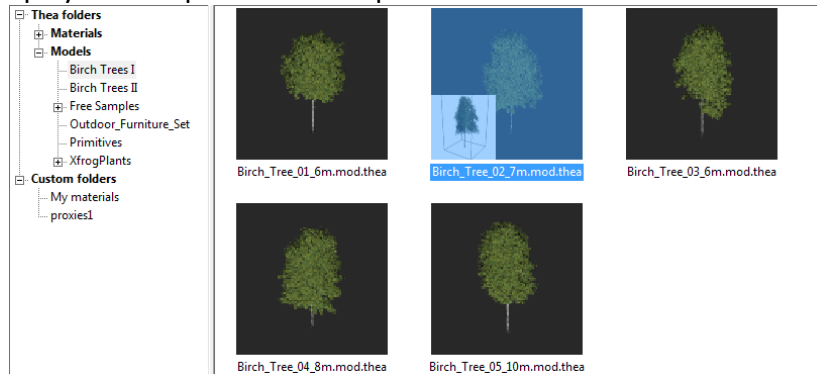


Figure 31: Birch_Tree_02 has a mod.skp preview available, seen on top of mod.thea preview

The basic steps to create correctly a Sketchup model that will correspond to the Thea model can be seen at the next example, where a tree from Birch Trees library is used.

We import at first the mod.thea inside Sketchup (bounding box) in an empty scene. We switch to the Parallel projection, and we select a view (front for example) and we set up the Thea camera so that it will fit the bounding box height and width. We then enable alpha channel and we render the model (by using only the sun and not the sky). Once we are satisfied with the rendering, we save the image as a *.png file (its alpha channel will be saved automatically at this image). We repeat the same procedure for another side of the model (its right side for example) so that we can have more correct (double sided) preview.

In this way he have 2 images for 2 of the models sides, which we can then import inside SketchUp, place them one into the other, so that our preview will be created, and make them a component. We then save this component as a *.mod.skp file inside the same folder with the initial thea model and with the same name. For our example, we will end up with the following files:

Birch_Tree_03_6m.mod.skp and
Birch_Tree_03_6m.mod.thea

From now on, once we import the Thea model inside SketchUp, its preview will be used, so that we can easily move/rotate it in our SketchUp scene.

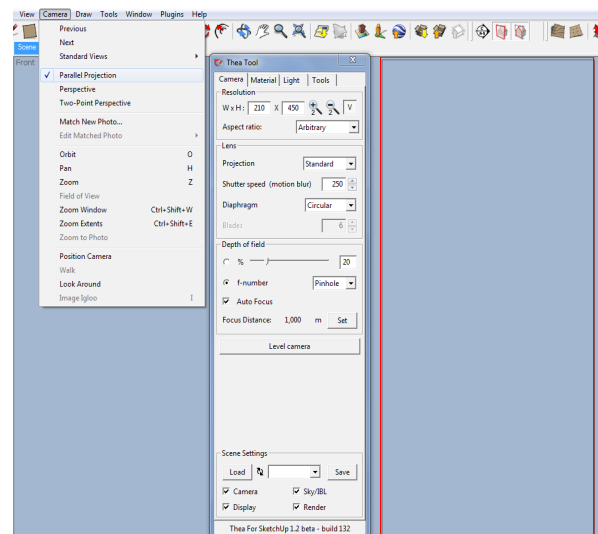


Figure 32: setting up the camera and render the model

1.7 THEA TOOL WINDOW

1.7.1 CAMERA TAB

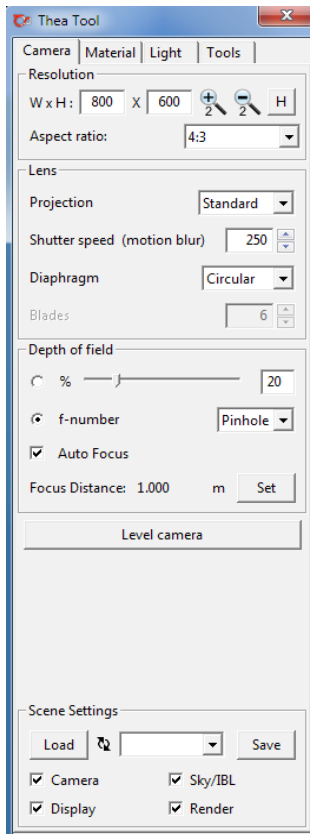


Figure 33: Thea Tool - Camera Tab

Resolution

The 'Width' and 'Height' settings control resolution of a rendered image. Please note that interactive rendering modes use full area of plugin's main window and render exactly at same resolution. The Plus & Minus buttons increase or decrease current resolution two fold. (H)orizontal\ (V)ertical toggle button changes orientation of the rendered image.

Aspect ratio

This setting control proportions of a final rendered image. When "SU Window" option is selected the resolution of a rendered image will be adjusted to be same aspect ratio as model view in SketchUp. When "Thea Window" is selected the resolution is adjusted to reflect current proportions of main render view. A typical proportions of 4:3 is characteristic for old type of monitors with resolutions of 800x600, 1024x768, 1600x1200. Wide screen proportions of 16:9 is more common in new monitors with resolution of 1600x900, 1920x1080. When creating a panoramic spherical or hemispherical image a correct ratio is 2:1.

LENS

Thea can project a rendered image on the screen in a standard manner – perspective or orthogonal, depending on a current view in SketchUp or using Spherical or Cylindrical projection. The spherical projection allows creating renderings of virtual panoramas that can be viewed in external programs. Correct aspect ratio of such an image is 2:1.

Shutter speed controls a motion blur which appears in an animated scene. Thea gives you control over a diaphragm of a camera. It can be circular or polygonal defined by a number of blades. This influences a look of a 'depth of field' effect and a motion blur.

Depth of Field

The depth of field can be controlled in the plugin in two ways. Either by 'f-number' of camera lenses or by percentage of a "blurriness" of a rendered image.

When Auto Focus is enabled plugin automatically adjusts focus distance to keep what is visible in a camera 'in focus' when possible. Focus distance displays a manual distance at which a camera is focused at. To set that value click 'Set' button and select a point in a model. The distance will be calculated automatically. The value is disregarded when 'Auto Focus' is enabled.

Level Camera

This button levels camera without changing its' position. It is helpful especially when setting-up a camera for a panoramic shot.

Scene Settings

This section allows associating Thea Render settings with SketchUp scenes/pages. It works same way as it is done in SketchUp with scene settings except they are not loaded automatically when a scene is selected, but it has to be done manually by clicking "Load" button. To save settings select a scene name from the list, mark setting types you want to store and press 'Save' button
Available options are: Camera Settings, Display Settings, Sky/IBL Settings, Render Settings.

1.7.2 MATERIAL TAB

Introduction

Before explaining in detail the Material Tab of the Thea Tools Window, we need to give a quick description of the available ways of adding a Thea material inside SketchUp.

As we will describe below, you can now choose between three available ways:

1. Double click on a painted face with the Thea tool cursor, open Thea Material Lab (see Figure 34), create your material or choose one from the available libraries (or your own folders) and apply it to your SketchUp face. You can choose to Accept the changes or Reject them (and return back to the material without any changes applied to it).
2. Click once on a painted face, with the Thea cursor tool, and see its details at the Material tab (see next paragraph and Figure 35) and then choose one of the existing presets for the material and edit it according to your needs.
3. Find Thea materials (converted in *.skm format) inside SketchUp Paint Bucket (see Figure 36) and apply them directly to your SketchUp surfaces. Conversion tool is also available for making your thea materials being converted into SketchUp materials and see them at the Paint Bucket (more details can be found at the Tools tab).

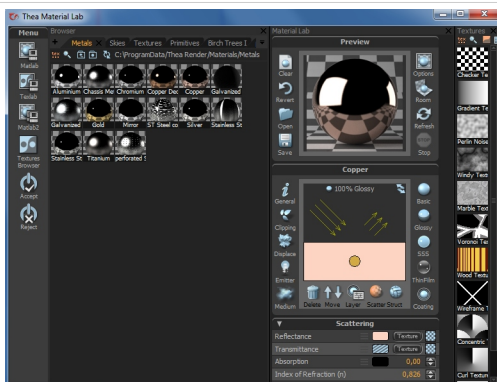


Figure 34: Thea Material Lab

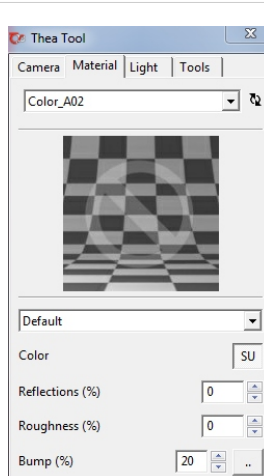


Figure 35: Material Presets

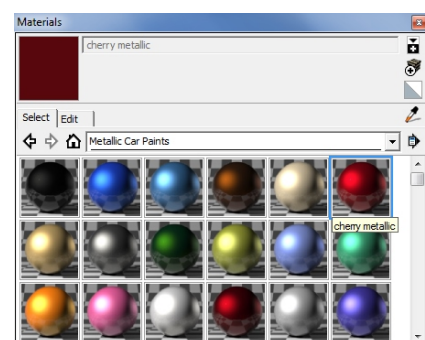


Figure 36: Thea Materials inside SketchUp Bucket

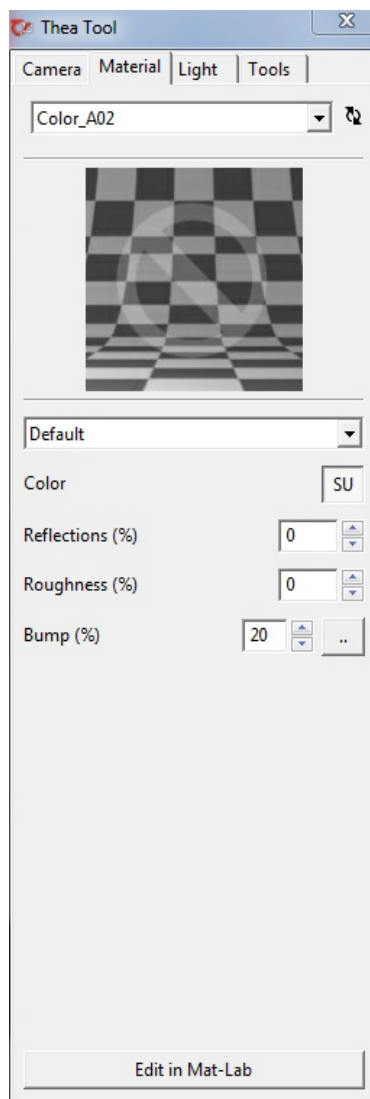


Figure 37: Thea Tool – Material Tab

Material Tab

With the use of the Material Tab we can either select a preset for one of our materials or see its preview, if edited with Thea Mat Lab.

Material tab, as seen in Figure 37, displays a name of a currently edited material and a preview of Thea material (if the material has been already edited in Thea). To select/edit a material one has to open Thea Tool and while the tool is active, click/double click on an already painted face in SketchUp. Thea Tool is active when a cursor changes its appearance as seen in Figure 38.



Figure 38: Thea Tool Cursor

When you double-click the face, Thea Mat Lab window will appear, allowing you to modify the material properties or apply another material from a library (see Figure 34). For more detailed information on Thea Material Lab and its options, please refer to Thea Render Manual.

When user clicks just once the material, the Material tab will display the name and a preview of a the material - if the material has been already edited in Thea Mat Lab- otherwise the panel will show like we see it in Figure 37, where the available presets exist.

Tip: In interactive mode cursor changes to a cross-hair and allows selection of a material directly in a rendered image. Single click shows material properties and settings while double click maximizes render window.

General Notes

The custom color by default is linked with SketchUp material color. By pressing the SU button, you are able to use a custom color instead the one already selected in SketchUp and change your material accordingly. By pressing the SU button once again you can decide to choose SketchUp material again or an external texture.

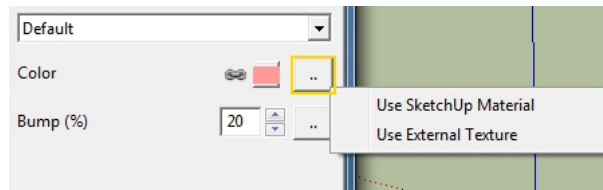


Figure 39: SU Button

The external texture once specified can be imported into SketchUp by right-click > Import texture. The imported texture size will be automatically reduced.

When texture type is 'EXT'ernal with a right-click one can import a downsized texture into SketchUp.


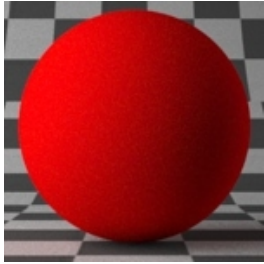
Additionally as seen in Figure 64 for the Emitter, SU button has the option of specifying a temperature(K) for the emitter.

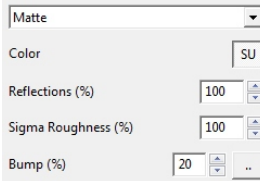
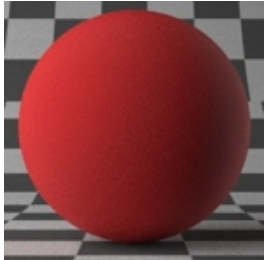
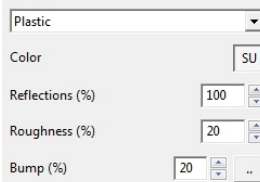
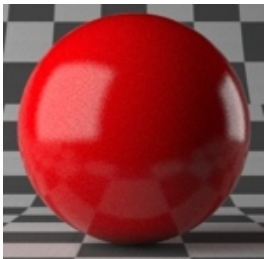
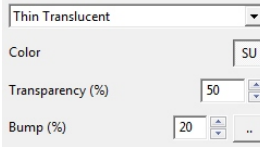
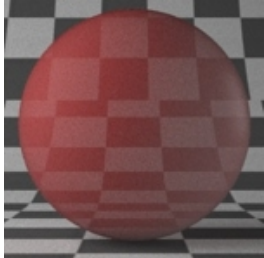
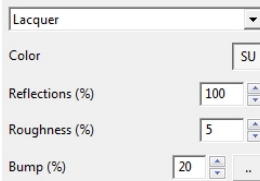

All material types except Emitter have option of using bump map. The map can employ same texture as SketchUp material has or an external texture.

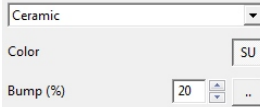

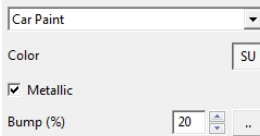
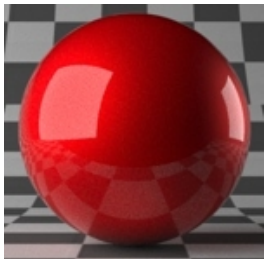
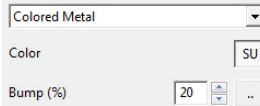
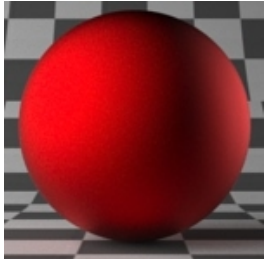
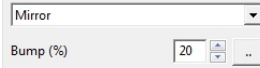
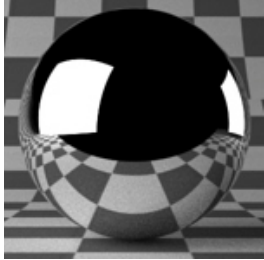
All material types except Mirror can use as a base: SketchUp material, an independently defined color or an external texture.

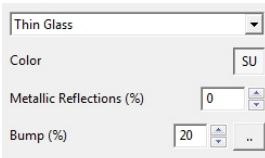
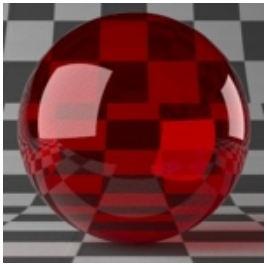
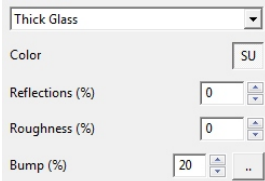

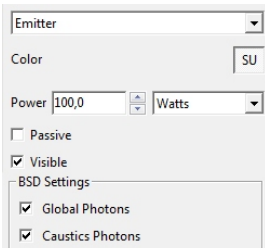
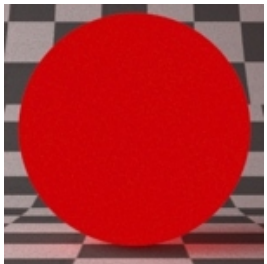
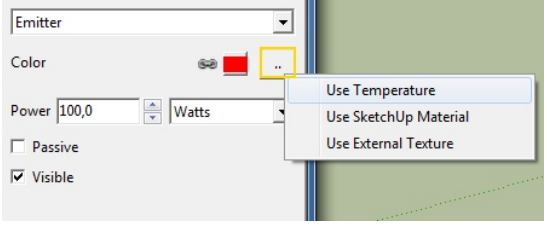
You can remove also a Thea material, by doing a right click on the preview area and press "Remove Material" button.

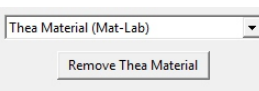
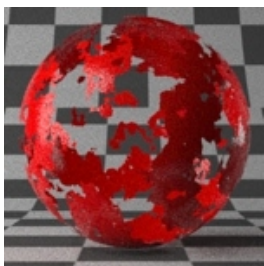
Below we can see a table with all the materials presets that exist at Material Tab, along with their available options, description and an example preview.

Material Preset	Description	Available Options	Example Preview
Default	This default type is a pure diffuse material.	 <p>Figure 40: Default Material options</p>	 <p>Figure 41: Default Material preview</p>

Matte	<p>This material type represents a very rough surface. It provides control over Reflections and Sigma Roughness, which influences how well an object accepts light from all directions. It makes the material to appear more flat.</p>	 <p>Figure 42: Matte Material options</p>	 <p>Figure 43: Matte Material preview</p>
Plastic	<p>This type of material behaves as plastic. It provides Roughness and Reflections parameters. It is a good base for a whole range of plastics from very rough and dull to polished and shiny.</p>	 <p>Figure 44: Plastic Material options</p>	 <p>Figure 45: Plastic Material preview</p>
Thin Translucent	<p>This type produces a single sided translucent material which is perfect for curtains and other non-volumetric objects. One can control its transparency percentage.</p>	 <p>Figure 46: Thin Translucent Material options</p>	 <p>Figure 47: Thin Translucent Material preview</p>
Lacquer	<p>This type represents a lacquered surface typically seen as a finish of timber floors. It provides Reflections and Roughness parameters. With the roughness set to 0 it resembles polished material and with higher values a satin appearance.</p>	 <p>Figure 48: Lacquer Material options</p>	 <p>Figure 49: Lacquer Material preview</p>

Ceramic	This type describes a ceramic material with a glossy finish.	 <p>Figure 50: Ceramic Material options</p>	 <p>Figure 51: Ceramic Material preview</p>
Car Paint	The material using this preset will resemble a car paint. When 'Metallic' option is enabled, the paint will behave as it would contain uniformly spread metallic flakes.	 <p>Figure 52: Car Paint Material options</p>	 <p>Figure 53: Car Paint Material preview</p>
Colored Metal	This type is designed to give a metal appearance with pronounced reflections.	 <p>Figure 54: Colored Metal Material options</p>	 <p>Figure 55: Colored Metal Material preview</p>
Mirror	The material will behave as a mirror surface. This type overrides SketchUp material color.	 <p>Figure 56: Mirror Material options</p>	 <p>Figure 57: Mirror Material preview</p>

Thin Glass	This type describes an architectural glass with a control over Metallic reflection it may posses due to applied coatings. This material doesn't require a volume of a geometry and is especially suited for non solid, thin face objects.	 <p>Figure 58: Thin Glass Material options</p>	 <p>Figure 59: Thin Glass Material preview</p>
Thick Glass	This type produces a volumetric glass which takes into account the refractions within object volume. Roughness of a surface and intensity of Reflections can be controlled.	 <p>Figure 60: Thick Glass Material options</p>	 <p>Figure 61: Thick Glass Material preview</p>
Emitter	This type turns a painted face into a light emitter. Its power is specified in several units. Temperature can also be specified instead of default color/texture. There is an option to make emitter not visible in a rendering or to make it "passive" - it will have a luminous appearance, but will not cast the light into a scene.	 <p>Figure 62: Emitter Material options</p>	 <p>Figure 63: Emitter Material preview</p>
		 <p>Figure 64: Enabling Emitter Temperature</p>	

<p>Thea Material (Mat-Lab)</p>	<p>This type uses full Thea Material editor from the Studio and allows full control over material properties (such as Clipping that we see in the example preview). Any of previous material types can be also edited this way.</p> <p>"Remove Thea Material" button removes all Thea material settings associated with SketchUp material.</p>	 <p>Figure 65: Mat-Lab Material options</p>	 <p>Figure 66: Mat-Lab Material preview</p>
--------------------------------	--	---	--

1.7.3 LIGHT TAB

SketchUp doesn't have its' native light sources. Thea for SketchUp uses components with a special names to define position and orientation of lights. There are thee light types available in the plug-in:

- Point Light: a regular omnidirectional spherical light.
- Spot Light: a directional light that allows focusing of a light cone on a chosen area in a model.
- IES Light: a light based on scientifically measured real life values, provided by light-bulbs and fixture manufacturers in a form of *.ies files.

One can also paint a face with a material using emittance and in this way create an area light. Front side of the face will be emitting light.

Creating Lights

Light tab allows a creation and editing properties of light components. To create a light open Thea Tool Widnow and select 'Light' tab. At the bottom there are three buttons responsible for creation of three types of lights. On the start of light placing tool user is asked to show in SketchUp model a location of a source of light by right clicking and subsequently a 'target' of the light. In case of a point-light only the distance from the source to target is being used to calculate a sufficient light power to reach the target. It is important to place light sources in a distance to an adjacent geometry higher than a radius of the light. Failing to comply with that rule may produce undesired "noise" in the final image. Once light component is created its name and properties will be displayed in the Light tab.

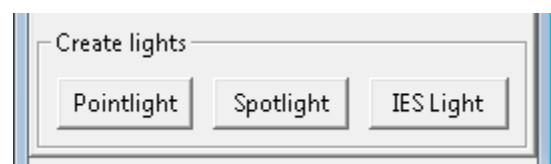


Figure 67: Create Lights Options

Editing Lights

Light properties can be invoked by selecting a light component or clicking a component while Thea Tool is active. On a top of the Light tab a name of currently edited light component is being displayed.

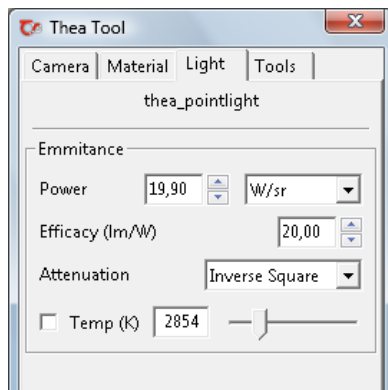


Figure 68: Emittance Properties

Pointlight & Spotlight properties

Point-lights and spot-lights share several properties:

Emittance

A colour of a light is controlled by a color of material the light component is painted with. When a temperature is enabled it will be used instead of the color.

All lights have flowing parameters:

Power expressed in multiple units, efficacy (lm/W), attenuation and light temperature (K).

Spotlight properties

Spot-lights have additional Hot Spot and Fall Off values that control a shape of light cone. 'Hot Spot' describes the inner angle where the light is emitted at a full intensity and 'Fall Off' is an angle the light fades completely at.

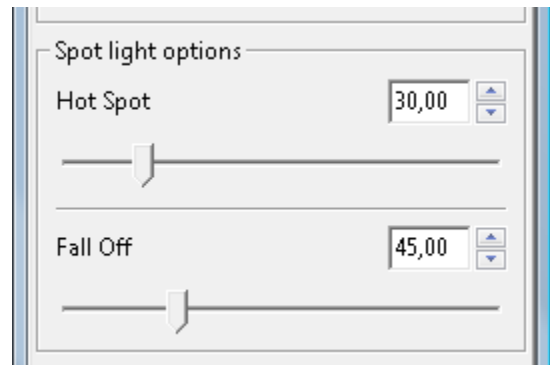


Figure 69: Spotlight Properties

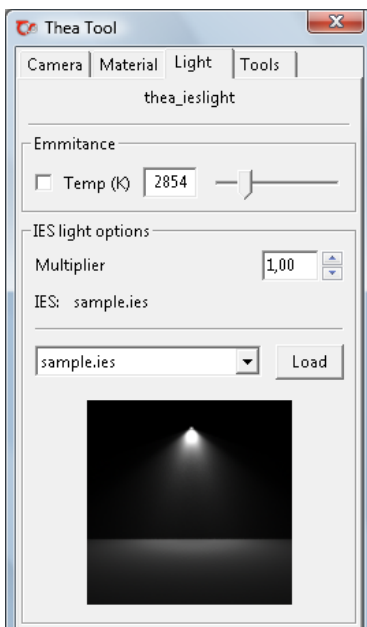


Figure 70: IES Light Properties

IES Light properties

By default an IES light have a sample.ies file loaded into it. It is possible to load a different description of light distribution by selecting it from a dropdown menu and pressing 'Load' button.

To use an IES file not present in Thea Studio IES files folder, select from the list 'Other file' and press 'Load'. You will be asked to select a file you want to save into the light component.

General Properties

A light component can be 'Enabled' which means it will be casting light. 'Shadow' controls whether the light will be casting shadows. 'Soft Shadow' specifies whether the shadow will be soft, based on a imaginary radius of the light source expressed in meters.

'Min Rays' and 'Max Rays' parameters are used only by the Adaptive(BSD) engine. Those are used rarely. For a detailed description, please refer to Thea Render Manual.

'Container' lets you assign a container-material in which the light is placed. Setting this material is valid only for a situations when a light is submerged in a water or placed inside a material congaing properties of a medium. It can be also used to force a light to show a volumetric projection of light.

1.7.4 TOOLS TAB

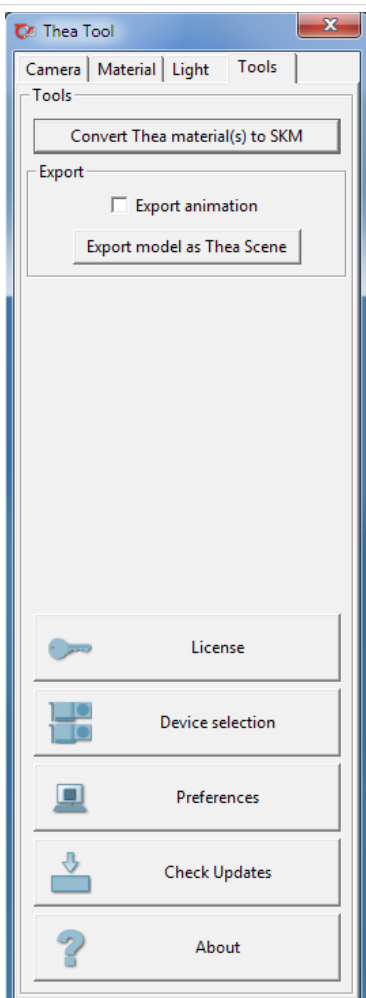


Figure 71: Thea Tools Tab

Convert Thea material(s) to SKM

This button can convert a selected Thea material to a SketchUp material (in SKM format). The created materials can be placed in a model by using regular Paint Bucket. It automatically optimizes the texture of the SketchUp material and adds the same preview as Thea material has.

So apart from the existing Thea material libraries that can be found inside SketchUp Bucket (as we have seen in Figure 36), you can have any Thea material converted and applied to faces in the same way as all other materials.

Technical note: Paths to textures which are stored within 'Thea Render/Materials' folder will be written inside SKM file as relative to that folder. This makes SKM libraries system independent. All other texture paths will be stored as full. In a case a path to a texture changes, the conversion process has to be repeated.

Export

Saves model as Thea scene in *.scn.thea or *.pack.thea format.

Note that when pressing the Save Thea Scene button with ALT pressed at the keyboard, the current selection is only been saved.

By enabling the Export Animation option, your created animation path (scenes included in animation) is also exported and can be then seen inside Thea Studio.

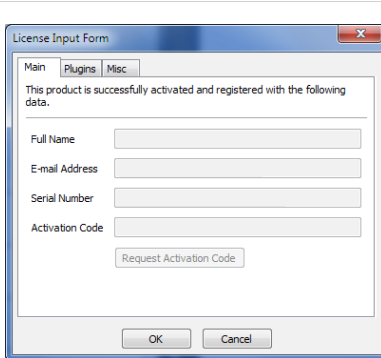


Figure 72: License Input Form

License

This button opens the License Form window that allows you to add your serial, name, email address and make an activation of the program.

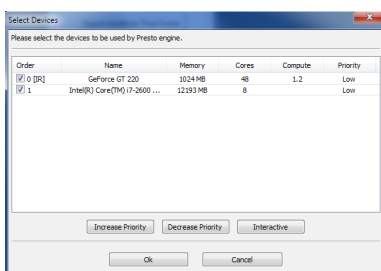


Figure 73: Device Selection

Device Selection

This button opens the Device Selection button that helps you define the Interactive Render device, set priorities, enable/disable engines etc..

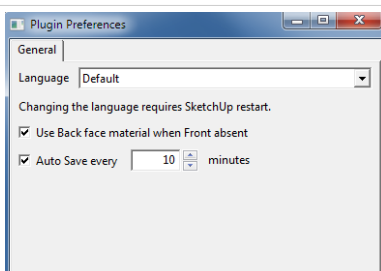


Figure 74: Plugin Preferences Window

Preferences

Language: By clicking on Preferences button, a new window appears as seen in Figure 74. From here, you can change the Language of the plugin. In order to do so, you need to follow the next steps:

There is a TheaForSketchUp.po file in the folder: Thea4SU_file/languages/

This file needs to be translated using Poedit program. The program will generate a TheaForSketchUp.mo file, that has to be copied to the corresponding folder of the selected translation language.

If the language is already set in the system then it will be automatically used when SketchUp starts. If it has not been set automatically, user can open Thea Tool/Tools/Preferences and select the language manually. The language modification will be active after SketchUp will restart. If for example you have placed the TheaForSketchUp.mo file at the folder with name es (Spanish) at the drop down list of the Language window you will see the Spanish language too.

Typical Country Codes are: de (German), es (Spanish), fr (French), it (Italian), ja (Japanese), pt (Portuguese), pt_BR (Brazilian Portuguese), ru (Russian), zh_CN (Chinese Simplified), zh_TW (Chinese Traditional).

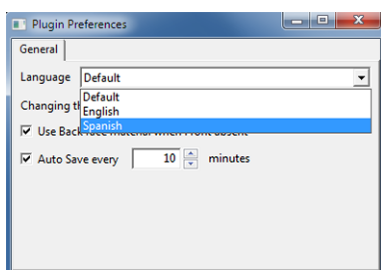


Figure 75: Selecting another Language

Use Back face material when Front absent: This option helps dealing with models where multiple faces are painted on a back-side only (whereas the front face has no material). By enabling this option Thea for SketchUp plugin will use the back face material for rendering instead of the default white material.

Auto Save every x minutes: enable or disable the Auto Save option. With Auto Save enabled, Thea is saving automatically the rendered image every 10 minutes (this is the default time but you are allowed to change this parameter).

The AutoSave locations of the rendered images can be located at:
For Windows the default folder is : Program Data\Thea Render\Temp\Session_#\temp.img.thea
For MacOSX the default folder is : "~/Documents/Thea Temp/Session_#/temp.img.thea

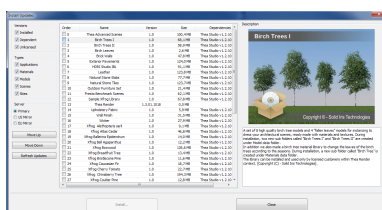


Figure 76: Check for Updates

Check Updates

This window helps you see the available Thea versions and resources libraries, check out their previews and details and download/install those needed.



Figure 77: About window

About

With this option you are able to see some information on the plugin and its current version.

1.8 LICENSE TERMS

Solid Iris grants to You a personal, non-transferable, and non-exclusive license to download, install and use "Thea for SketchUp" and associated printed and/or electronic documentation accompanying the Software, in accordance with this agreement. This license does not under any circumstances grant ownership of the Software to You.

A single copy of the program can be installed and used by You, on one machine. You can install the application on up to two more machines, provided that the plugin is not used or executed simultaneously on any machines. If You wish to install the Software or use the Software concurrently on additional machines You must purchase additional licenses.

Demo version is provided for evaluation only and its use for commercial purposes is prohibited.

1.9 *DISCLAIMER*

“Thea for SketchUp” is provided "as-is" and without warranty of any kind, express, implied or otherwise, including without limitation, any warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. In no event shall the author of this software be held liable for data loss, damages, loss of profits or any other kind of loss while using or misusing this software. The software must not be modified, you may not decompile, disassemble. Any kind of reverse engineering of the software is prohibited.